

“Bridge”
CTED WorkFirst Business Outreach
Bridging Economic Development and WorkFirst

October 4, 2004

CTED announced a Request for Proposal for “Bridge” on August 3, 2004, making \$150,000 available for innovative projects that will enhance linkages between economic development and WorkFirst. Twenty-three concept papers totaling \$970,000 were received. These concept papers represent twenty-nine counties and one statewide project, leveraging \$786,000. Eight concept papers were selected to submit full proposals. There were several excellent proposals, but with the limited funds available, factors such as cost benefit and outcomes were used to determine the projects to be funded. The following three projects have been approved.

Tri-County Workforce Council

Service Area: Yakima County

Requested: \$55,700

Through a joint partnership with New Vision Economic Development Council and Yakima Chamber of Commerce, Tri-County Workforce Council proposes to create direct connections between WorkFirst job seekers and local businesses. Two key components will provide the linkage: Job shadowing for TANF parents who have very little work experience and skills, and employment connections for individuals who have completed job readiness credentials at Yakima Community College. With support from WorkFirst partners, New Vision and Yakima Chamber of Commerce will primarily be responsible for employer education, job shadowing, industry tours and placement efforts.

Economic Development Association of Skagit County

Service Area: Skagit County

Requested: \$76,000

Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC) will hire a Business Outreach Coordinator for marketing, placement and job retention support for TANF parents. This new WorkFirst staff will be part of Workforce Team Skagit, an existing workforce development partnership formed to work collaboratively with the manufacturing industry. EDSASC has also planned to train WorkFirst partner staff and clients in STEPS to Economic & Personal Success (S.T.E.P.S.) through the Pacific Institute, a training to develop the “difficult skills” that employers demand: great attitude, timeliness, dependability, honesty, willingness and cooperation.

Clallam County Economic Development Council
Jefferson Counties

Service Area: Clallam &

Requested: \$50,000

Clallam County Economic Development Council has successfully developed an industry cluster-based collaborative program called Clallam netWorks. Centered around eight local industries (marine services, technology, tourism, agriculture, healthcare, education & training, finance and forest resources), Clallam netWorks will have WorkFirst representation for the first time. Key features of the proposed “Bridge” project include connecting Clallam networks resources with WorkFirst. WorkFirst LPA representatives will work in tandem with Clallam networks and vice versa. WorkFirst clients will direct access to industry specific information seminars, training and employment partnerships, and family wage jobs.